



Transportation Outlook

September, 2004

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Wall of Fame Department of Transportation Announces Employee Recognition Program

The Department of Transportation is proud to announce that an employee recognition program has been established to acknowledge those who do an excellent job within the organization.

Each month, one employee will be selected from each division for Transportation's 'Wall of Fame'. Pictures of each employee will be featured on the newly created wall, which is located in the Administrative Office area on the 5th floor of the Benton Building.

Candidates will be selected by their Division Chiefs

based upon a variety of criteria including job performance, achievements, attitude and attendance. Star employees will receive certificates of excellence, recognition by the department and tokens of appreciation. 'Wall of Fame' achievers will also be personally congratulated by Transportation Director Al Foxx at a quarterly luncheon held in their honor.

"As Director of this Department, I feel it is important to acknowledge those who are doing an outstanding job," said Director Foxx. "We need to recognize those individuals who work hard each day to meet the goals and objectives of this organization."

The first six 'Wall of Fame' employees were recognized by the Department on Wednesday, August 11, 2004. These super achievers include Ronald Hunter (Maintenance), Thomas Haj (Traffic), Tenille Blue-Shaw (Engineering and Construction), Benzenia Townsend (Conduits), Sgt. Helen Crossett (Safety) and Janis Mims (Administration).

Be sure to stop by the Administrative Offices to see pictures of the outstanding achievers each month. Congratulations to the employees selected for the month of September and welcome to the 'Wall of Fame'!



The Combined Charities Campaign is soon to kick off and the city will need your help to make it a success. This year's theme, "Help us to help others. It all comes back to you!" is the call to city employees to demonstrate their commitment to Baltimore and its people. Join the Mayor on Thursday, September 9th in front of City Hall from noon until 2:00 for the kickoff of this year's campaign!

It's Back to School Time Again for Baltimore City Students

It's time to kick off yet another school year and the Department of Transportation would like to remind motorists to be on the look out for students headed back to class. While driving through city neighborhoods, motorists should be cautious of children and obey the posted speed limits. School buses will be back on the streets transporting students and crossing guards will be assisting chil-

dren at area intersections.

Drivers should obey crossing guard signals and stop for school buses whenever bus lights are flashing. Aggressive drivers be aware that passing a stopped school bus puts children in danger and carries a stiff penalty and fine.

Remember, Maryland law requires the use of seatbelts and child safety seats. Let's

buckle up for safety and work together to help keep Baltimore students safe this school year!



YouthWorks 2004 a Success for City Students



YouthWorks students take a break from their summer jobs to receive helpful testing tips from the Princeton Review

This summer, the Department of Transportation sponsored 102 students as part of the Mayor's **YouthWorks 2004** summer jobs program. These high school students, ages 14-18 worked for six weeks in various positions throughout the department. For many of these youth, this was their first opportunity to develop job skills and good work habits through meaningful work experiences.

During the program, which ran from July 12th through August 20th, students were able to take a break from their regular job duties to attend a college preparatory seminar sponsored by the Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review is a national education service company which helps to familiarize students with various college entry exams. All of Transportation's **YouthWorks** students spent the day at War Memorial Plaza to learn about the SAT and PSAT exams and the many resources available to help pay for college.

The seminar was moderated by Shani Lee, Assistant Director of the Princeton Review, who offered tips on multiple choice questions by using the method of deductive reasoning. Students also received a sample preview of the 2005-2006 SAT and PSAT exams and were given a college admission

road map for the class of 2006 and beyond.

The workshop was, in part, the vision of Transportation Director Al Foxx, who not only wanted to offer summer jobs to urban youth, but hoped to inspire them to finish high school and move on to institutions of higher education. Many of the **YouthWorks** students already plan on attending college and found the seminar to be very helpful.

The Department of Transportation was proud to sponsor such eager students and hopes that all **YouthWorks** employees have a successful school year!

Impound Lot Successfully Reduces Claims



Each day, approximately 2,900 cars are stored at the Pulaski Highway Impound Lot.

The Pulaski Highway Impound Lot processes approximately 43,000 vehicles each year. In years past, the lack of security, crowded conditions and outdated processing procedures contributed to damaged vehicles and a high number of claims filed against the city.

But Towing Manager Bob Suit and his dedicated staff have taken great strides to improve conditions at the lot. New security measures have been implemented in order to protect the vehicles that are towed to the facility. Vehicles are now photographed during the check-in process and tow truck drivers are escorted

into the storage yard. Security cameras have recently been installed on the 25 acre site, along with new lights and fencing.

The total number of vehicles stored at the Impound Lot also needed to be reduced in order to better organize the yard and eliminate overcrowded conditions. Vehicle processing procedures have been streamlined so that abandoned automobiles can be auctioned more quickly. Much effort has also been taken to ensure that aisles are wide enough and storage spaces are labeled. Vehicle inventory is now lower than it has been in years,

and conditions at the lot are greatly improved.

All of this hard work is surely paying off, as vehicle damage claims have been drastically reduced. Since fiscal year 2002, damage claims have dropped by nearly 50%. In July of 2004, the city paid out an all-time low of less than \$4,000 in claims. Considering the cost of labor and materials to repair an automobile, this is an outstanding achievement!

The Department of Transportation congratulates the Towing Section for making such remarkable progress. Keep up the good work!

Congressional Delegation tours Baltimore City

On Wednesday, August 04, 2004 members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation participated in a driving tour of Baltimore City communities to highlight the progress made on economic development projects which have received significant federal funding. The tour focused on various development and housing projects, and included areas which are on the Mayor's federal priority list or those which are in need of significant federal dollars.

The economic development tour kicked off at City Hall and covered various projects in the north, south, east and west sections of the city. Site visits were made at the East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI) Community Center and in the Uplands neighborhood.

Senator Paul Sarbanes, along with Congressman Ben Cardin, Congressman Elijah Cummings and representatives from the offices of Senator Mikulski and Con-

gressman Ruppertsberger participated in the event. During the tour, Mayor O'Malley along with members of City Council and Transportation Director Al Foxx, lobbied for additional federal revenue to be used for transportation and economic development projects.

The tour provided the delegation with a first-hand look at federal dollars working to improve the City of Baltimore.



Congressman Cummings, Senator Sarbanes and Senator Cardin address questions with Mayor O'Malley

Enhancing Transit Security for all Americans

The transportation infrastructure is a critical, high risk and high consequence national asset. Every day, transit provides mobility to millions of Americans in our most heavily populated areas. The transit system serves the largest economical and financial centers in the nation, moving more than 14 million passengers daily. By its very nature,

transit is such a high risk target for terrorists because it is operated as an open environment.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Intelligence and Security estimated that in the late 1990's, transit was the target of approximately 20-35 percent of the terrorist attacks worldwide. To date,

the FTA has been learning, sharing and applying all they can to enhance transit security. Working relationships have been formed with the intelligence community so that their expertise and knowledge can be applied to the transit industry. The goal is to make the transportation infrastructure safe and free from terrorism.



Reports indicate that transit systems move more passengers in a one-month period than U.S. airlines move in a year.

Lots of Hard Work at Southwestern High School

On Thursday, August 26th Department of Transportation employees rolled up their sleeves for some pretty tough 'school work' at Southwestern High School. DOT employees joined the Mayor's Cabinet and many other city staffers at Southwestern to complete school improvement projects. Employees painted classrooms, hall-

ways, stairwells and the cafeteria. Skilled volunteers repaired floor and ceiling tiles and replaced cafeteria windows. Crews from the Department of Transportation resurfaced the bus lane near the school's main entrance and began sidewalk repairs. We also helped prune trees, spread mulch, clean up the grounds and remove debris.

Southwestern High is one of five schools adopted by the Department of Transportation as part of the **'Believe in our schools'** campaign. Students will see a new and improved Southwestern High when they return to school on September 7. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped transform Southwestern into a great place to learn!





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BELIEVE

The Jones Falls Expressway is close to completion!

Remember what it was like to drive on the JFX without almost hitting a construction barrel? It's hard to recall those days of cruising along the interstate without seeing any road work, but relief is on the way as construction nears completion.

Since November, 2002, the Jones Falls Expressway has been under construction between Howard and Eager Streets. After months of lane closures and slow moving traffic, some lanes have been

reopened as final paving has been completed along both the north and southbound sides of the expressway.

At this point, permanent lane markings still need to be installed along the southbound side of the expressway. Concrete barrier work has to be done as well, including the placement of barrier reflectors, glare screens, fencing and painting. Weather permitting, this work should be completed by the end of September.



The newly reconstructed Jones Falls Expressway near the St. Paul Street ramp

Be sure to watch for the grand opening of the newly reconstructed Jones Falls Expressway. Enjoy the smooth commute!



Calling all employees: We need your help! While traveling through the city, whether for work or for play, please report any transportation related problems or concerns to the 311 system. This will enable us to function more efficiently as a department and better serve the citizens of Baltimore. If you see a problem, remember to report the problem to 311.

'See a problem, report a problem!'

Lighting the Streets of Baltimore

The City of Baltimore and the Department of Transportation are working on a new initiative called the 'Pedestrian Lighting Program'. This initiative, which is supported by the Baltimore Urban Lighting Board (or BULB for short) is designed to improve visibility and increase citizen safety throughout city communities.


As part of this new initiative, we are working to increase city street lighting by adding or upgrading lights where needed. Priority locations include '24/7' zones of the city, the arts districts, neighboring roads along the Charles Street corridor, streets surround-


ing Hopkins Hospital and along various park perimeters including Clifton, Burdick and Hanlon Parks.

Transportation crews have begun area inspections to determine where additional lighting is necessary. City forces, along with BGE and a variety of contractors will partner to install the lights and perform lighting upgrades to improve visibility and security on city streets.

Local residents can get involved with the Pedestrian Lighting Program by attending various public hearings held by BULB in order to address community lighting concerns. Citizens can talk to BULB members at the

following public hearings which begin at 6:00 p.m. each evening:

 September 09, 2004 at Baltimore City College, 3220 The Alameda.

 October 07, 2004 at Garrison Middle School, 3910 Barrington Road.

We hope to hear all of your 'bright' ideas at the meeting!

